

Zion Lutheran Church

210 North Wayne Street
Saint Marys, Ohio 45885

Zion Lutheran Church is a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
and a congregation of the Northwest Ohio Mission District.

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Begin the New Year Embracing a New You!

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV

As we move into a new Calendar year – 2024 – we have an opportunity to let go of the old us, which is corrupted with sin and has us wearing a past which would condemn us in the afterlife. Just as we leave 2023 behind, let us remove our old self, with all of its imperfections, and put on a “new us” for the New Year, 2024.

St. Paul tells us we do this by adopting a **“new attitude of the mind – a new self – created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”** In other words we change our perspective, approach life from a different angle, intentionally see life through a different lens than the one we have been using which is tied to the old sinful life we are letting go of for the New Year. If you’ve not been reading scripture each day, now is a great time to start. You don’t have to read a lot, maybe 10 minutes worth each day. It will begin to help you change your perspective and approach to life.

If you’re not praying to the Lord each day, now is a great time to start. And when you pray, pray for more than your wants and desires. Pray for others including your enemies and their situations and needs, all while praying in a positive way. Condemn no one. This will open you to the realization that everyone is struggling, and that everyone is a potential child of God. It will point you toward forgiveness and mercy.

Try to look at life through the lens of your baptism, meaning, you’ve been baptized into the name of the one who has been crucified for you in order to take away your sins, to make you clean and pure before the God you’ve sinned against. Perhaps you will find a supply of grace within yourself to share with those who deserve none. Just as you who are undeserving have received grace from the crucified Jesus.

And finally, begin the year with the attitude of being fully forgiven of all of your wrong doings, all of your sins, by God. Hold your head high, the King of the Universe loves you, has forgiven you, and will give you the strength and courage you need to live a different life, filled with righteousness, mercy, grace and hope. All qualities of a person seeking holiness, seeking to live a more holy life. That part of Jesus found through the Holy Spirit, imparted to you in your baptism, will draw you nearer to him as he continues to shine his holiness in and through you. Have a blessed New Year, and may the Lord continue to make you a **‘new creation’** in this new life you have in him.

Pastor Bill Maki

Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship will resume on Monday, January 8, 2024. A new study will begin, The Life of Martin Luther, An Historical Journey and Bible Study, by the Rev. Steven E. King. All Women of Zion are welcome to attend! Please contact the church office if you wish to obtain a study guide. Contact Pam Fledderjohann if you have any questions, 419-953-2334.



January Birthday List

Wishing a Happy Birthday to the following members of Zion Lutheran Church. We invite you to pray for the following people on their special day.

2–Daniel Hegemier

3–Shirley Felver, Keith Fledderjohann, Brittney Hance, Cindy Durlait, Julia Weber, Brandy Yahl

4– David Morris, Dennis Vogel

5–Mason Alley

6–Erin Behrendt, Melanie Schramm

7–Devyn Alley, Gene Hines, Charlotte Merricle, Sherrie Voisard

8–Breanna Miller

9–Zaila Yahl

10–Lois Axe

11–Ralph Hecht, Rebecca Stetler

12–Mitchell Orr

14–Ruth Ann Merriman, Jeanne Wurster

16–Brice Puthoff, Josie Slater

17–Cole Brooks, Justin Felver, William Nedderman, Jeff Yahl, Lincoln Nolan

18–Robert Suchland

19–Lori Hirshfeld, Alex Lampert, Jerry Mertz, Jill Quellhorst, Ronald Rohrbach, Landyn Storer, Cody Vires, Skylyn Nagel

20–Holly Now

21–Katie Loehr, Carson Morris, Brianna Prater

22–Nicole Nolan

25–Chance Now, Beth Kennedy

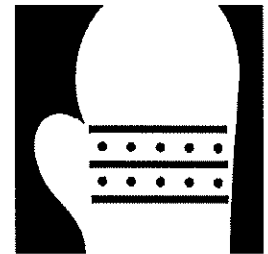
26–Amelia Ankerman, Casey Thiebeau, Spencer Thiebeau

27--Alexandria Vondrell

28–Calianna Bond-Awls, Tyler Sharp, Teresa Roode

29–Karla Brummel

31–Tayler Berner, Yvonne Strohmeyer, Aaron Torsell



If your name was omitted or a correction needs to be made in this list of birthdays, please contact the church office, 419/394-3115.

Mark Your Calendar!

-- February 16, 2024 --





January Loose Offering

Pre-Born! Their mission is to glorify Jesus Christ by leading and equipping pregnancy clinics to save more babies and souls.

Pre-Born! Partners with life-affirming pregnancy clinics across the nation. They are designed to strategically impact the abortion industry.

Staff E-Mail Addresses

Zion is linked to the Internet. We are currently receiving e-mail service provided by bright.net. Staff e-mail addresses are:

Pastor Bill Maki	wlmmaki@yahoo.com
Kathy Bishir	kbishir@hotmail.com
Ann Maki	annmmaki@yahoo.com
Mindy Thiebeau	zionbpe@hotmail.com
General Mail.....	zionlutheranstmarys@bright.net

February Newsletter Article Deadline

The deadline to submit articles for our February Newsletter is Tuesday, January 16. Please submit all articles to the church office by 3:30 p.m. Here are the various ways to submit your articles to us:

- Fax: 419-394-1239
 - Bring it to the church office by the deadline.
 - Write us a note on the "I Worshiped Today"
 - Leave a message on our answering machine: 419-394-3115, after 4:30 p.m.
 - Send your article by e-mail: kbishir@hotmail.com
-

Office Closed

The church office will be closed **Monday, January 1st**, in observance of New Year's Day. The office will also be closed on **Monday, January 15th**, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Christian Symbol

LATIN CROSS — The Latin cross is the simplest and most common form of the Christian cross, possibly dating from the second or third century. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians typically display a crucifix — an image of Jesus hanging on the cross — to remember his

death for the sake of the world. Protestant churches often favor the empty cross, commemorating Jesus' resurrection.

Items Needed for NALC Health Care Kits & Samaritan Purse Christmas Child Boxes

Health Care Kits:

- Bath Towel
- Wash Cloth
- Shampoo
- Pack of Floss
- Toothpaste



Spring Items:

- Marbles
- Yo-Yos
- Coloring Books
- Sunglasses
- Jump Ropes
- Bandanas
- Jewelry
- Chalk
- Pencils & Pens

Place the donations listed above in the Women's box by the elevator.

News for the Women of Zion

Happy New Year to all! May God's blessings pour on all of us in 2024. We have two anniversaries this year and we hope to see everyone come and participate. We are a family in the Lutheran faith that has grown and spread God's word for 175 years in the St. Marys community. Please come and continue to be a part of this great family.



2024 Officers of Zion Women:

- Chair: Nora Staunton
- Vice-Chair: Rhonda Weaver
- Secretary: Sandy Wierwille
- Treasurer: Dianne Uhlenhake
- Advisor: Linda Yahl

2024 Committee Chairpersons:

- Mission Action/Community: Chris White
- Mission Growth: Becky Harvey
- Family Care: Doris Cook & Becky Harvey
- Kitchen/Prayer Shawl: Kathy Bishir
- Flower Committee: Jeanne Wurster
- Altar Committee: Cheryl Macklem

Officers will be installed along with council members at either of the Sunday services on January 7, 2024.

Thank you to all who gave to or Thankful Offering benefiting Crime Victims Services. We collected \$959. That money will be sent to their Lima office.

Our next workday is Thursday, January 18, at 9 a.m. We will be putting Birthday Bags together for Agape Pantry and knotting quilts.

The Women's 2024 handbook/directory has been printed and handed out at church services. If you did not get one, there are extra copies on the table in the Narthex. Please pick one up and look over what the women do every month and the programs we have planned for the year.

Our Lenten offering envelopes will be distributed on February 14, 2024 (Ash Wednesday). This is the only fundraiser that stays at Zion to support all of our women's projects. We are doing things a little different this year. We will be handing out a printed sheet of Bible readings for each day during Lent along with an offering envelope to be returned on Easter Sunday. Previously we asked you to place 50 cents each day in the envelope which came to a total of \$20 for the 40 days of Lent. The year we hope you will use the Bible reading sheet, and enclose a check or \$20 in the Lenten offering envelope on Easter Sunday. If you have any questions please see Nora Staunton.

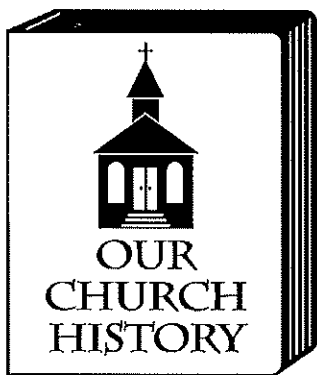
January kitchen duty is Becky Harvey.

Creative Crafters project is on Sunday, January 14, at 1:30 p.m. Watch for more details in our weekly bulletin.

Book Club will meet January 3, 2024, to review "Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen" by Susan Gregg Gilmore and led by Pam Fledderjohann. February's book is "The Light Between Oceans" by M. L. Stedman.

God's continued blessings throughout the New Year!

Nora Staunton, Chair of Zion Women of NALC



Anniversary News

Happy 2024! The coming year will be a very special one for Zion Lutheran Church as we celebrate 175 years as a congregation and 50 years since the construction and dedication of the sanctuary and administrative offices.

On June 10, 1849, the constitution of the German Evangelical Protestant Congregation of St. Marys was adopted. A band of rugged German immigrants assembled to organize their own church to meet their spiritual needs, with 50 men signing the constitution. Undoubtedly, the founders of the church were among the pioneers attracted to the community by the opportunities created with the construction of the Miami & Erie Canal.

The first house of worship was known as the Rooster Church because of the distinctive finial or weathervane on the spire. NO pictures of this structure are known to exist. It stood at the intersection of Perry and High Street.

On February 14, 1864, a split occurred in the congregation following the adoption of a constitution to apply for membership into the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Ohio and Adjacent States. Our congregation reorganized as the "German Evangelical Lutheran Church", while those who did not support the decision and did not sign the constitution went on to found the St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Congregation.

The two congregations continued to worship in the same church for a while, but then the newly formed German Evangelical Lutheran Church worshipped in the old Baptist church until 1874. A new church was erected and dedicated on the large lot that was acquired in 1866 and is where we worship today. The wood church was 50 feet long and 30 feet wide. The height of the graceful steeple tipped by a fine cross was 92 feet. The church was dedicated 25 years after the church's organization. This church was located where the current bell tower stands. By 1906, the congregation had grown so that the need for a new church was apparent. A cornerstone was laid for a new church in 1907. As preparations for the new church were being completed, the wood church was moved to High Street. Later the church was moved to North Front Street and remains as a private residence.

The new brick church was dedicated on August 9, 1908, having been constructed at a cost of \$22,000. The Tudor style church was of solid brick, 50' x 75', in a cruciform shape. Interior details included a magnificent high altar in white and gold, with statue of Christ and two adoring angels, the beautiful pulpit, the art-glass windows and fresco decorations. The high altar is currently in the Chapel. The new house of worship included Sunday school class rooms, and a room for society meetings. At the time of dedication, the first service was conducted in German and then in English for the two additional services that day.

During the planning for the congregation's 1948 centennial, a \$50,000 goal was adopted for the Church Building Fund. This effort became the seed for the construction of the Zion Lutheran Educational Building, dedicated in 1956, and the planning and construction of our current sanctuary/administration facilities, dedicated in 1974 .

The 1908 brick church was razed in 1974 for the construction of the current main sanctuary. Zion will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the sanctuary on April 7, 2024.

Our congregation has had several names. In 1870, the congregation voted to incorporate as the German Evangelical Zion's Lutheran Congregation. In 1921, the church's constitution established the name of Zion Evangelical Lutheran, a name retained to the present.

You are encouraged to attend and participate in the numerous events and celebrations being planned this year to celebrate our congregation's 175 years of teaching, preaching and sharing the Gospel as well as the 50th anniversary of our sanctuary.

Neal Brady

The article contains excerpts from The Zion Lutheran Church, Centennial Souvenir Booklet, 1949.

Prayer List

We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers. The people on the list are friends and family or our membership:

Janet Dicke, Judy Von Blon, Brent Paulus, Sandi Deerhake, Alma Kuffner, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Ann Morris, Darlene Henkener, Margaret Moore, Ronald Suchland, Don Diers, Linda Diers, Ruth Schreffler, Vicki Bishir, Emily Henkle, Kristin Hemmelgarn, Mary Willmann, Judy, Dana Kittle, Vicki Homan, Lisa Suchland, Kelsey, Eileen Zimmerman, Carolynn Sidey, Markham Hodge, Forrest Cooper, Janet, Mark Torsell, Michael Gardner, Jamie, Sharon Lhaman, Family of Sandy Minturn, Bill & Carolyn Slemmons, Bob Hinschlager, Bob Suchland, Janet, Analisa Bouscaren, Alan Bishir, Lonnie Hietkamp, Eden Tangeman, Margaret Miller, Mike Kittle and the people of Israel.

Special Thanks

Pastor Bill, Ann Maki, and Kathy Bishir would like to thank you for the Christmas gifts and greeting cards we received. We wish you all a blessed New Year.



2024 Flower Chart

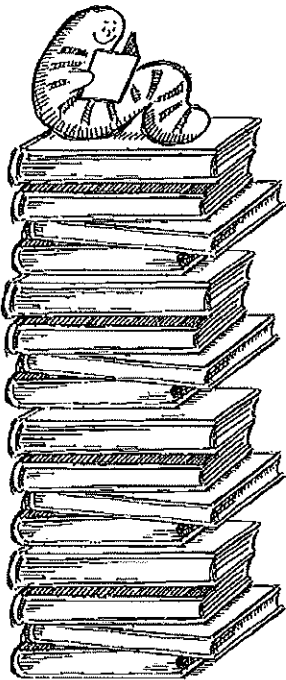
The first 6 months of 2024 Flower Chart is available on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the Tuesday before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and contact the church office, 419-394-3115, to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin. Upcoming dates still available:



*January 7, 14, 21 & 28
*February 4 & 18
*March 3, 10 & 24
*April 7, 14, 21 & 28
*May 19 & 26
June 9, 16 & 23

Library Notes—January 2024

The holidays are over and January is here. You deserve some “me” time. What could be better than a cup of tea and a good book? The church library is chock full of great reads and four will be featured this month on the library table—easy peasy.



1. The Red Door Inn by Liz Johnson
2. Tara Road by Maeve Binchy
3. Thorn in My Heart by Liza Curtis Higgs.

Set in the moors of the Scottish Lowlands, two brothers’ fight to claim their father’s blessing and two sisters try to claim one man’s heart. The past is brought to life revealing spiritual truths that transcend time. This is book one in a series of four.

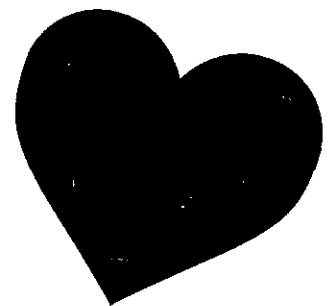
4. The Newcomer by Mary Kay Andrews

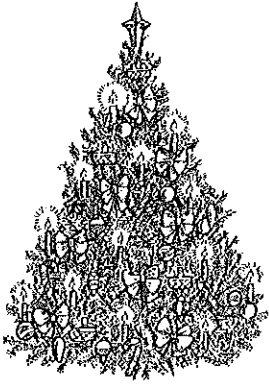
This is a page turner you won’t be able to put down. Letty Carnahan is on a mission to find her sisters killer. Along with her niece, Maya, and a lot of emotional baggage, they end up in a Florida beach town, the home of a close-knit flock of retirees and snowbirds.

The church library books are borrowed on the honor system. Please sign the guest book to help us determine the library’s future at Zion.

Note of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has supported me and made the 40 years here special to me. Thanks to each of you for your gift of friendship and kindness. Also, thanks to all who attended the recognition dinner, planned the dinner and made the day special. Thank you for the cards, gifts and greetings. --Kathy, Office Manager





Taking Down of the Christmas Decorations

According to tradition, **January 6** marks the day the three kings actually arrived in Bethlehem after Jesus was born, so this day signals the official end of the Christmas celebrations. On Saturday, January 6, at 10 a.m., we will be taking down the Christmas decorations here at the church. All are welcome to help with this project.

Council Recognition/Installation

The **recognitions** of our 2023 Congregation Council and Women's Council and Installation of the 2024 councils will take place at either of our services on **Sunday, January 7**. If you were a member of council and are a newly elected council member, please plan to attend one of the worship services on that day. See you there!

Snow Removal

Volunteers are needed to help with snow removal, especially on Sundays and Wednesdays. Also, volunteers are needed to help remove snow on weekdays to help our members and staff get to the church office or to attend meetings throughout the week. Let the church office know (419/394-3115) or talk to Dana Cook, trustee, if you are able to help out.



Year-to-Date Financial Information

Financial Information: Our current financial information for Zion is as follows for year-to-date for the month, dated—12/21/2023.

- 1/1/2023 Beginning Balance--\$86,923
 - December 2023 YTD Income--\$373,489
 - December 2023 YTD Expenses--(-\$392,666)
 - Payroll WH/Benevolence—(-\$5,871)
 - December 2023 Ending Bank Balance--\$73,617
-

Address Changes

AARON TORSSELL, 6016 WINTERBERRY DR, GALLOWAY OH 43119-9298

CHRIS WHITE, 253-209-8672

Craft Corner



- **January:** We will be making door/window draft stoppers on **Sunday, January 14**, at 1:30 p.m., in the church kitchen. Sign up in the binder provided in the Narthex. A sample will be on display in the Narthex. The cost of the project is \$5, payable the day of the event. Sign up in the binder on the table provided in the Narthex.
- **February:** We will be making a Valentine bouquet of flowers on **Sunday, February 4**, at 1:30 p.m. Sign up in the binder on the table provided in the Narthex. The cost of the project will be \$15, payable the day of the event.

All are welcome.

Three Powerful Prayers

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), an Irish Protestant missionary, served in India for 55 years. Much of her work was with children, especially rescuing them from sexual slavery. Carmichael wrote 35 books and many articles about her mission work. The Church of England remembers her on January 18, the anniversary of her death.

The following brief but powerful prayers are attributed to Carmichael:

- May thy grace, O Lord, make that possible to me which seems impossible to me by nature.
 - Holy Spirit, think through me, till your ideas are my ideas.
 - God, hold us to that which drew us first, when the cross was the attraction, and we wanted nothing else.
-

Predictions for the New Year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the New Year brings!

